

From the Editors

Fredrick J. Long

During this time of COVID-19, I am pleased that we are offering the second issue of Volume 7 of *The Journal of Inductive Biblical Studies* (JIBS), and not too terribly late. The delay is all my responsibility.

This current Summer Issue (JIBS 7/2) contains two articles (one by a former student, Drew Holland; and the other by a pair of current students, Matthew R. Peterson and Dain Alexander Smith), another chapter from Wilbert Webster White's book *The Resurrection Body*, a sermon of mine that utilized IBS in its creation, which inaugurates a new type of offering that readers of JIBS will see in subsequent issues, and an autobiographical journey by my colleague, Joseph R. Dongell.

First, Drew Holland offers "An Alternative Approach to the Dilemma of 2 Kgs 3:27." Interpreters have puzzled over the sequence of events depicted in this verse. Holland, however, adduces contextual and lexical evidence that tips the scale and shows how Israel was culpable in the child sacrifice and thus God's judgement.

Second, Matthew R. Peterson and Dain Alexander Smith team up to investigate the relationship of "Ancient Literary Criticism and Major Structural Relationships" and provide "A Comparative Analysis." Their research adeptly correlates the claim of IBS that Major Structural Relationships (MSRs) are ubiquitous to human communication with one type of ancient data: the ancient literary critics. Thus, Peterson and Smith provide ample evidence of the similarities, but also the differences, that MSRs have with the literary devices and practices found in the ancient Greco-Roman literary critics.

Third, chapter 3 of Wilbert Webster White's *The Resurrection Body* "According to the Scriptures" asks "Why Is the Resurrection Judged Incredible?"

White considers various proposed reasons, including Adolf von Harnack's found in *What is Christianity?* White shows that Harnack does not follow the sound principle of exegesis of Johann Albrecht Bengel in separating the modern Easter message (Jesus is alive) from the ancient Easter faith (Jesus is raised from the dead). During COVID-19, we need once again heed the Easter Faith. "The programme of Christianity calls for belief on evidence rather than on [dismissive] explanation. This is the method of science," says White.

Fourth, this issue of *JIBS* offers my sermon, "Arise 'n' Shine, Daughter Zion of the Messiah Jesus!" delivered at Asbury Theological Seminary, August 19, 2020. My approach was very inductive, tracing themes through Isaiah and correlating these with the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7) and Ephesians 5:14. God expects His people to embody justice and show righteousness; and by God's own provision and as reflecting God's own glory, we are able to arise and shine!

Finally, Joseph R. Dongell concludes this issue by offering autobiographically "My Journey with Inductive Bible Study." Dongell, a beloved and highly lauded teacher, reveals how his godly heritage, his curiosity, his being mentored, and his exposure to IBS—all as parts of Divine Providence—have enriched and motivated his love of Scripture and its study via IBS. Readers will enjoy reading this as much as I did.

To conclude, I want to thank my co-editor, David R. Bauer, for his steady and constant hand at the helm to help steer *JIBS*. Also, I am very grateful for Joseph Hwang, our editorial assistant, for providing exactly this. His work is most professional and adept. Moreover, I want to give thanks to our editorial board for the direction they offer as well as for the blind reviews they constantly provide. Then too, thanks are due to Robert (Robbie) Danielson for oversight of the final file uploads into the Digital Commons Network that makes *JIBS* available to tens of thousands of users. In fact, as of today, as I finish writing this, *JIBS* articles have enjoyed 41,558 downloads. Additionally, I want to thank Asbury Theological Seminary's President, Timothy C. Tennent, and Provost, Douglas K. Matthews for supporting *JIBS*. Finally, I thank my God and Savior, Jesus Christ, for providing light for the path, joy for the journey, and comfort for the hardships.

Soli Deo honor et gloria!